

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 5, 6, and 27 are pending in the instant application. Claims 1-4, 7-26 and 28-33 have been canceled.

Response to Final Action

Applicant's response and amendment to the claims filed on 11/14/08 are acknowledged. The rejections and objections made in the previous office action are withdrawn in view of the amendment to the claims.

Examiner's Amendment

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Dr. MaryAnne Armstrong on 12/3/08.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 5, last line, **insert** ---or an enantiomer or a mixture of enantiomers, or a pharmaceutically acceptable addition salt thereof--- after the word haloalkyl at the end of the claim.

In claim 6, line 1, **delete** "derivative" and **insert** ---compound--- after the word ureido.

Reasons for Allowance

The present invention is directed to benzenesulfonic acid compounds of formula (IIa). The closest prior art of record is U.S. PAT 3,332,981 (Shultis et al), which teaches a similar

compound, except all the compounds are stilbenesulfonic acid compounds. There is no motivation in the Shultis reference to make benzenesulfonic acid compounds without the corresponding stilbene moiety. In addition, the instantly claimed compounds cannot encompass a stilbene moiety at the R1 or R2 position. Support for the term “pharmaceutically acceptable carrier” can be found in the specification on page 31. Therefore, the compounds and compositions are allowable over the prior art.

Telephone Inquiry

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Susannah Chung whose telephone number is (571) 272-6098. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, Joseph McKane can be reached on (571) 272-0699. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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Art Unit: 1626

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/REI-TSANG SHIAO /
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1626